



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

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BISHOP PRESERVES BELLPORT HISTORY WITH \$75,000 WIN

Congressman Delivers Funding to Preserve One of 'America's Treasures'

WASHINGTON, DC- In an important win for Long Island's historic preservation, Congressman Tim Bishop has secured \$75,000 to rehabilitate 12 Bell Street in the Village of Bellport. This building serves as the principle hall for membership and trustee meetings of the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society. The funding was secured in the Interior Appropriations bill, which was passed by the House of Representatives on May 18.

"As a lifelong Long Islander, preserving the heritage and history of our community is very important to me," Bishop said. "I am proud to secure this funding so we can refurbish 12 Bell Street. The Village of Bellport has an immensely rich history and has contributed significantly to Long Island's heritage."

"This \$75,000 grant will go a long way towards preserving Bellport's history," stated Mr. Frank C. Trotta, Mayor of the Village of Bellport. "We appreciate Congressman Tim Bishop's effort on our behalf."

"Since the whole village tries so hard to preserve its historic character, we really appreciate Congressman Bishop's support of these efforts," stated Carol Bleser, President of the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society. "This grant will enable the Society to restore the historic structure which is the key to the Bellport Village Bell Street Historic District."

Number 12 Bell Street is listed on the National Register of Historical Places (NRHP), and serves as the principle hall for membership and trustee meetings of the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society. The Village of Bellport, within the Town of Brookhaven on Long Island, is home to over 80 businesses and homes listed on the NRHP. The Historical Society's museum and cultural center is the focus of these buildings, and 12 Bell Street is the center of the Historical Society's eight building complex dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Long Island's past.

Bishop secured the funding as part of the "Save America's Treasures" program in the Interior bill. Now that the funding bill has passed the House, it must pass the Senate and be signed into law by the President.

The restoration of 12 Bell Street has four components: (1) Safety and structural integrity (raise the building and rebuild the foundation; rebuild part of roof); (2) Rehab the exterior (doors, windows, porch, parts of walls, prep and stain siding); (3) Enlarge meeting hall; and (4) Upgrade to Handicap Accessible (several entries and demolish and rebuild two toilets).